



Rally4Recovery

Press Release

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For Immediate Release

**Rhode Island's Ninth Annual Rally for Recovery to celebrate
2011 National Recovery Month**

**Governor Lincoln Chafee and A. Kathryn Power, Director of the National Center
for Mental Health Services, are among Guest Speakers at the Event**

Cranston, RI, August, 2011 – The Rhode Island Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals (BHDDH) and the Rhode Island Recovery Month Coalition will host the ninth annual Rally for Recovery on Saturday, September 10 from 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Roger Williams National Memorial, 282 North Main Street in Providence. This year's theme is "Recovery Benefits Everyone".

Speakers at the event, held to raise awareness about drug and alcohol addiction, mental illness, developmental disabilities and the journey to recovery, will include A. Kathryn Power, Director of the National Center for Mental Health Services (and former Director of the Rhode Island department known as MHRH) and Governor Lincoln Chafee. Warwick Mayor Scott Avedisian, Providence Mayor Angel Taveras and Ashbel T. Wall, Director of the Rhode Island Department of Corrections are among others who will address those who attend.

"Holding this event is a way for us to give a voice to people in recovery, and to tell people that treatment does work and recovery is possible", said Craig Stenning, Director of BHDDH and emcee for the event. "Rhode Island was one of the first states to expand the focus of National Recovery Month to include individuals with mental health issues and people with developmental disabilities".

BHDDH, in conjunction with the Rhode Island Recovery Month Coalition, was selected to receive the 2010 Recovery Month Annual Event Award. Director Stenning will accept the award on September 8 in Washington, DC. It is given in recognition of exceptional efforts to expand the breadth and reach of National Recovery Month in 2010.

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100,000 Rhode Islanders (approximately 10% of the State's population) have a substance use disorder. Nearly 70% of the State's residents know someone who has been addicted to alcohol or drugs.

This year's function features musical performances by the Mill City Rockers, Rapper B-Mor and the Recovery All-Stars featuring Doreen Collins. There will be many activities for kids, at this free, family-friendly event including a reptile show and a rock wall.

National Recovery Month is an initiative of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA's) Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT), within the Department of Health and Human Services. The goal of this initiative is to increase the understanding of behavioral health and reinforce the message that prevention works, treatment is effective, and people can and do recover.

For more information, visit www.rally4recovery.com.

About the Rhode Island Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals.

BHDDH is committed to assuring access to quality services and supports for Rhode Islanders with developmental disabilities, mental health and substance abuse issues and chronic, long-term medical and psychiatric conditions. In addition to planning for the development of new services and prevention activities, the mission of the department includes addressing the stigma attached to these disabilities.

About the Rhode Island Recovery Month Coalition

The Rhode Island Recovery Month Coalition includes treatment and recovery service providers, family members, and friends and advocates for recovery. The coalition strives to improve the quality of life of veterans and other individuals in recovery and highlight their accomplishments.

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